

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE TORRANCE COMMISSION ON AGING**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on September 10, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center.

2. ROLL CALL/MOTIONS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE

Present: Commissioners *Craft, Kimmel-Dagostino, G. Davis, Kraemer, Robelotto, Virobik and Chairperson K. Davis

Absent: None

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand

*Commissioner Craft left at 11:06 a.m.

3. FLAG SALUTE AND INSPIRATIONAL

Senior Librarian Deleget led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Former Commissioner Griffith provided the following inspirations:

Football combines two of the worst things in American life. It is violence punctuated by committee meetings. George F. Will

Happiness is wanting what you get, not getting what you want. Robert A. Heinlein

The highest wisdom is kindness. The Talmud

4. ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino moved and Commissioner G. Davis seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of September 10, 2013. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Craft moved and Commissioner Virobik seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of August 13, 2013, as submitted. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

6. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Patrice Deleget, Senior Librarian

Pat Artman, Civic Affairs Chairperson for New Horizons

Gail Standley, Board Secretary for New Horizons

Brianne King, Civil Service Personnel Technician and Volunteer Coordinator

Commissioner Griffith, Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults (LACCOA)

7. SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

A. City Council Activities

Commissioner Kraemer reported that new Home Town Heroes Banners had been presented at the Council meeting and reminded the Commissioners to look for the banners along Torrance Boulevard.

Commissioner Kraemer announced that there would be a workshop on October 5, on the capital budget, which covers a five year period.

Chairperson K. Davis reported that the Commission on Aging Annual Report would be presented to the City Council on September 17. Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand requested that the Commissioners attend the meeting, if at all possible.

In response to a question from Commissioner G. Davis, Commissioner Kraemer stated that there had been no discussion at the Council level of the appearance or upkeep of the memorial bricks in Centennial Park.

B. Housing

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino announced that there would be a hearing in the Planning Commission on September 18 at 7:00 p.m. to consider an ordinance to permit emergency homeless shelters in M2 heavy manufacturing zones and to establish standards for regulating the shelters. She noted that she was uncertain as to exactly which type of shelter would be under discussion and requested, if possible, that a Commissioner attend the meeting in order to offer comment, if necessary.

Commissioner Robelotto stated that she would attend the meeting.

C. Health

Chairperson K. Davis presented information on an *research study by Boston Massachusetts Eye and Ear Institute* on a drug that might be able to restore hearing by regrowing the hairs in the inner ear.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino presented information on an article in the Los Angeles Times concerning who paid for the cost of an ambulance. She noted that the Gerber Ambulance Service would like to attend a Commission meeting to present information on their service in the City.

There was a discussion and it was decided that Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino would arrange to have both the Gerber Ambulance Service and the Fire Department attend the October Commission meeting.

Commissioner Virobik reported on a survey by the National Council on Aging that stated that adults over 60 placed more value on relationships with family and friends than on their financial concerns and that only fifteen percent reported feelings of isolation.

Gail Standley, Board Secretary for New Horizons, noted that many of their residents are over 90, but that the neighbors watch out for each other. She noted that the complex did not have a formal program to combat isolation. She added that the complex was going to begin work on a disaster plan for events such as black outs.

D. Transportation

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino reported that Transit Department, at the September 10 Council meeting, was scheduled to request a consulting service to conduct a bus stop survey and an evaluation of the transit system in order to develop a catalog of the stops. She added

that the survey would include the requirements for signage, equipment and curbing changes for each stop. She noted that there was also a request for a second consulting service to conduct a survey that was required by the Federal Transit Administration every 3 years. She added that this survey was a line by line analysis to determine the ridership characteristics, schedule adherence, and passenger destinations and origin information.

She reported that the Transit Department had received approval from the Federal Transit Administration for a grant of \$4,025,827 to be used to purchase an additional compressed gas bus, fund ongoing fleet maintenance and purchase the required items for the bus stops as determined by the consulting survey.

Commissioner Robelotto requested that Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino remind the Transit Department that there was a continuing problem of the trash cans at bus stops not being emptied.

There was a discussion of the bus surveys.

E. Community Programs

There was a discussion of the bus service to the Hollywood Bowl.

Commissioner Virobik reported that P.A.C.E. assistance (Providing Assistance for Citizen Enrichment) was now being advertised as available for the Torrance Travelers Excursions. Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand noted that the PACE assistance had been added to the excursions as part of changes made to the fee structure for the tours.

Commissioner Kraemer announced that Madrona Marsh had reopened and that the Marsh would hold a fundraiser on September 21.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that she had not been informed of the date for the County's flu clinic and would inform the Commissioners when she received information on the clinic.

There was a discussion of crime in Torrance.

Chairperson K. Davis reported that Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand had received a reply from Senior Planning Associate Chun who had stated that there would be additional handicapped parking and pedestrian and bike ways as a result of the Del Amo Mall renovations.

F. Focal Point Program

Commissioner Virobik reported the following Focal Point statistics for the months of:

August 2013

Total number of documented calls: 55	Total number of callbacks: 12
Miscellaneous calls: 62	Total number of walk-ins: 21
Total number of calls received: 117	

Of the documented calls:

33% were for transportation	38.2% were for housing
27% were for in home services	

Commissioner Virobik noted that the Focal Point was now fully staffed. She stated that Focal Point had received 4 reports of financial abuse.

There was a discussion on subsidized housing.

G. Elder Abuse/Fraud

There was a discussion on procedures to follow when going on vacation.

Commissioner Kraemer announced that the Police Department would hold a fundraiser on September 11 at Rock & Brews in Redondo Beach, with 15% of the proceeds to go to a victim support program.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino reported on a credit union fraud.

8. SENIOR OUTREACH PROGRAM

Chairperson K. Davis presented information on life planning and care giver classes offered by H.E.L.P. She noted that the Chamber of Commerce had a new catalog with 3 new programs.

Former Commissioner Griffith suggested inviting Donna Duperron, President of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, to a Commission meeting to discuss the impact of seniors on the economy of Torrance.

Commissioner Kraemer noted that the Exxon Mobil newsletter stated that Mobil gave 6% of their support for services for seniors. She stated that she would follow up with Mobil to obtain an explanation of the support.

Senior Librarian Deleget described the events scheduled for the Library Centennial Gala on September 22 at the Katy Geissert Civil Center Library.

The Commission concurred to establish a Senior Outreach program subcommittee consisting of Commissioners Robelotto, Virobik and G. Davis.

Commissioner Robelotto stated that the subcommittee would meet with Executive Director Kitabayashi of the Westchester Playa Village and report back to the Commission.

Former Commissioner Griffith noted that the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) classes had started in Torrance and the cost to join was \$30.

Commissioner Robelotto noted that there was a mandatory orientation prior to the (OLLI) class attendance.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino noted that the Commission on Aging meeting had been posted in the weekly Southbay section of the Los Angeles Times.

Commissioner Kraemer distributed flyers for a fund raiser at Rascal's Restaurant for the Torrance Rose Float Association on September 24 from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

9. ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino announced that there was a "Discover Torrance" app available for smart phones. She explained that the app currently contained Torrance general information and in the future, would have information concerning the AYSO games scheduled to be held in Torrance in July 2014.

Senior Librarian Deleget noted that the "Discover Torrance" information was also advertised in the Automobile Association of America (AAA) magazine.

Commissioner Virobik announced that September was National Senior Center Month and stated that throughout the month, centers would showcase their services and programs.

Chairperson K. Davis announced that the Women's Club was holding a Sock Hop on October 25 and admission was \$30.

Senior Librarian Deleget presented information on a grant that she had received to purchase brain boosting programs from Bi-folkal Productions and requested input from the Commission on which of the theme-based programs to purchase for the library. She noted that the programs would then be used in libraries, senior centers, club houses, nursing homes and other facilities.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand suggested that Senior Librarian Deleget speak with Recreation Supervisor for Senior Programs Snodgrass and Program Coordinator Duthie.

Commissioner G. Davis stated that she would send a list of local organizations and contacts to Senior Librarian Deleget for her use in scheduling the programs.

It was decided that when Senior Librarian Deleget had purchased the programs, she would schedule a time with the Commission to demonstrate one of the programs.

Senior Librarian Deleget suggested that the Commissioners visit the program's website, Bi-folkal Productions, to view the types of programs that were available, and to inform her of any programs that they would like to recommend for purchase.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m. to the regular meeting on Tuesday, October 8, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center.

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Approved as amended October 8, 2013 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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